

Brainstorming Strategies for Elementary Fellows: Before You Start Writing, Allow Yourself to Dream!

"The human mind once stretched by a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions."

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Are you trying to come up with a great writing idea but find yourself getting stuck? Try these strategies!

TAKE A WALK. Go on a walk outside or in. As you do this, pay careful attention to the things that you see, hear, taste, smell, and feel. What do you notice? List all of the details. Then pick one to write about more!

LISTEN TO THE RADIO. Spend some time listening to your favorite songs. As you do this, doodle the pictures that come into your mind or list the things that the music makes you think of. Pick one idea to write about more!

FLIP THROUGH A MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER. Circle the things that interest you. Pick one to write about more!

HAVE SOME FUN. Great writers will tell you that ideas are easier to find when we're taking the time to have fun. Make sure you mix your fun moments up a bit. Ideas are hard to find if we spend too much time watching television or playing video games, for instance. We need to enjoy all sorts of experiences in order to be creative!

TALK TO SOMEONE. Ask your parents, grandparents, siblings, or friends to tell you one of their favorite stories. You might even ask them to share a great memory that they have of YOU. Think about writing this down!